along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border areas signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993, an India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993 to assist the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) in its task of implementation of the Agreement. The Expert Group held its first meeting in New Delhi from february 2—4, 1994.

(b) and (c) At the first meeting of the Expert Group, basic agreement was reached on issues related to its mandate, future tasks and methodology. The tasks for the Expert Group, as per its mandate, including the question of troop reduction and other confidence building measures will be taken in subsequent meetings.

Visit of Foreign Diplomats to Punjab and Kashmir

236. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of foreign diplomats alongwith the names of their countries, who visited Punjab and Kashmir during the last two years and the names of places visited by them as well as the names of organisations, parties and individuals they met;

(b) whether these foreign diplomats informed the Government of India about their visit to Kashmir and sought permission from it; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) 108. The requisite details are furnished in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(b) The foreign diplomats in question had informed the Government of India about their visit to Kashmir. No prior permission was necessary as they did not visit the restricted/protected areas for which prior permission of the Government is required.

(c) As in (a) and. (b) above.

Statement

Visit of Foreign Diplomats to Punjab And Kashmir during 1992 And 1993

SI. No.	Name of country (No. of diplomats)	Name of State visited Punjab/Kashmir (Names of places visited)	Names of organisations/parties/individuals whom met
1	*2*		4
3.	Belgium (1)	Kashmir (Lch).	Development Commissioner and Deputy District Collector and attended festivals of Sotok and Matho.
2.	Spain (1)	Kashmir (Lch).	-do-
3.	Commission of Euro pean Community (i)	Kashmir (Lch).	-do-
4,	Turkey (1).	Kashmir (Leh).	-do-
5,	Italy (1).	Kashmir (Leh),	-do-
6,	Russian Federation (4).	Kashmir (Jammu, Patni Top), Punjab (Amritsar).	—

1	2	3	4
7.	United Kingdom (9).	Kashmir (Srinagar, Jammu). Punjab (Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Chandigarh).	Governor, his advisers, police and security officials and some political representatives of Kashmir and Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Director General Police of Punjab.
8.	Netherlands (1)	Kashmir (Jammu).	Governor, Chief Minister and Director General Police of Kashmir.
9.	Iran (6).	Kashmir (Srinagar, Ladakh).	-
10.	Mongolia (2).	Punjab (Chandigarh, Ludhiana).	Chief Minister, wool manufacturers, Wool and woolen Export Promotion Council.
11.	Bulgaria (2).	Punjab (Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Kartarpur).	Chief Minister and to see agricultural progress in Punjab.
12.	Germany (2).	Punjab (Chandigarh).	Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Agriculture Minister and Vice-Chancel-lor of Punjab University.
13.	Cuba (1).	Punjab (Chandigarh).	To attend function by AIPSO.
14.	Nepal (1).	Punjab (Chandigarh).	To attend function by Nep-ali Jana Sampark Samiti
15.	Canada (2).	Punjab (Chandigarn).	Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary.
16.	Australia (2).	Punjab (Chandigarh),	Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary.
17.	Trinidad & Tobago (1).	Punjab (Amritsar, Chandigarh).	—
18.	Indonesia (3).	Punjab (Chandigarh),	Governor and Chief Minister.
19.	Nigeria (1).	Punjab (Chandigarh).	—
20.	New Zealand (2)	Punjab (Chandigarh),	Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Development Financial Commissioner.
21.	Bangladesh (1).	Punjab (Chandigarh).	Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary.
22.	Japan (6).	Punjab (Chandigarh). Kashmir (Srinagar, Jammu),	Officials of Home Ministry of Punjab Government, officials of Kashmir Government and to meet Mr, Koji Masuda, a Japanese national who fell ill.
23.	China (46)	Punjab (Chandigarh)	Tourism.
24.	Indonesia (5)	Punjab (Chandigarh)	Meeting with Governor/ Chief Minister.

1	2	3	4
25.	U.S.A. (1)	Punjab (Chandigarh & Amritsar)	Meeting with Governor, Chief Minsiter, Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.
26.	Cuba (1)	Punjab (Chandigarh)	Tourism.
27.	Germany (1)	Kashmir	Governor of J&K, Advisers of Governor, Leaders of various Groups, Prominent citizens. Representatives of Political Parties, Refugee Camps, Migrants from Kashmir etc.
28.	Belgium (1).	Kashmir	-do-
29.	Greece (1).	Kashmir	-do-
30.	Commission of Europe-pean Community (1)	Kashmir	-do-

Pak P.M.s Televised address on Kashmir

237. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMADAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the nationally televised address devoted exclusively to the Kashmir issue by Prime Minsiter of Pakistan on 24th January last;

(b) if so, what is Governments reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to start a parallel propaganda against Pakistan, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government is aware of the nationally televised address by Prime Minsiter of Pakistan of 24th January, 1994, which had references to the Kashmir.

(b) Government has noted the contents of the address. As anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistani establishment is a regular feature. Government of India does not dignify each and every such address by formal comment.

(c) Countering motivated anti-India propaganda is an ongoing process. Government successfully continues to rebut false and baseless Pakistani allegations and disinformation in respect of the Kashmir issue. As part of these efforts, frequent and continuing interaction is maintained with other governemnts to provide correct information on the situation in Kashmir. Publications and audio-visual material have been prepared for distribution through our missions abroad to politicians, officials, press and other opinion-makers. Indian and foreign journalists are requlary briefed here as well as in other countries through our missions. Relevant information is regularly disseminated to the missions abroad to enable them to take swift and effective corrective action with all relevant target audiences.

Engaging of public relations Firm in U.S.A.

238. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose underlying Government's decision to engage the